

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

In the claims, please amend claims 1, 4-6, 10, and 13-14 as follows:

1. (currently amended) A composition process for delivering an RNA to a cell comprising: a ~~modified RNA and a transfection reagent wherein~~
 - a) said modified RNA consists of a hydrophobic group post-synthetically linked covalently linking a hydrophobic group to [[an]] the RNA via a labile bond cleavable under mammalian physiological conditions to form a reversibly modified RNA;
 - b) mixing the reversibly modified RNA with a and wherein said hydrophobic group enhances interaction of said RNA with said transfection reagent wherein the modified RNA associates with the transfection reagent through hydrophobic interactions to form a complex; and,
 - c) and wherein said modified RNA is selected from the group consisting of silylated RNA, acylated RNA, and alkylated RNA contacting the cell with the complex.
- 2-3. (canceled)
4. (currently amended) The composition process of claim 1 wherein the ~~functional~~ hydrophobic group is linked to a ribose 2' hydroxyl of the RNA.
5. (currently amended) The composition process of claim 1 wherein the hydrophobic group is ~~selected from the list consisting of: and~~ consists of a membrane active compound.
6. (currently amended) The composition process of claim 4 wherein the RNA is modified at: a single ribose 2' hydroxyl of the RNA, more than one but not all of the ribose 2' hydroxyls of the RNA, or all of the ribose 2' hydroxyls of the RNA.
- 7-9. (canceled)
10. (currently amended) The composition process of claim 1 wherein the RNA is selected from the group consisting of siRNA and microRNA.
- 11-12. (canceled)
13. (previously presented) The composition process of claim 1 wherein the modified RNA is more resistant to nucleases than the RNA if it were not linked to the ~~functional~~ hydrophobic group.
14. (previously presented) The composition process of claim 1 wherein a plurality of ~~functional~~ hydrophobic groups are attached to said RNA via labile bonds.